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EXCISE

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TAIWAN/PRC CONTACTS

EXDIS REVIEW

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Reviewed by: Elijah Kelly Jr.

Date: 5/2/94

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-- Embassy Beijing reported December 3 that China had decided to start talks in Geneva with Taiwan concerning mutual interest in GATT membership.

-- Nonetheless, there is no confirmed report that talks have actually taken place

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-- Taiwan's government insists it has not yet held officially authorized talks with the PRC government. It has also stated there is no need to talk to the PRC concerning its GATT application.

-- Visitors to the PRC from Taiwan, including legislators and journalists, often hold talks with PRC officials and leaders concerning PRC/Taiwan relations.

-- Private associations from Taiwan, including the Red Cross and the China Marine Products Association in Taiwan, have signed agreements with Chinese counterpart organizations.

-- Taiwan has set up a government controlled private organization, Foundation for Exchanges Across the Strait (FEATS), to conduct relations on a non-governmental basis with the mainland, and Beijing has indicated its willingness to deal with the organization.

-- Taiwan officials no longer rule out talks with PRC officials in the future but insist Beijing first must stop treating Taiwan as a local government, threatening to use force to achieve reunification, and blocking Taiwan's flexible diplomacy.

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